

### **Auction #8 of the PPIE collection**

**Lot #71** "Souvenir Viewbook of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition", green soft cover, 12 by 9 inches, excellent condition. Excellent condition. Same as lot #61. Sold at live auction for \$10.

**Lot #72** Black and white viewbook called "The Exposition" Sold on ebay for \$11.00

**Lot #73** Color Picture Book, Views of the Panama Pacific International Exposition In Natural Colors", This large book of colored (!) photographs features translucent cover sheets with a caption for each of the 14 pictures. Sold at live auction for \$50

**Lot #74** Sculpture and Mural Painting. Panama Pacific International Exposition". An extensive record of the art of the PPIE. Same as lot #77. Sold at live auction for \$25

**Lot #75** "The Great Exposition, Official Publication, Panama-Pacific International Exposition San Francisco 1915", red soft cover, 12 by 9 inches. Captioned black and white pictures. Sold at live auction for \$25

**Lot #76** Four postcard set of allegorical statues published by Cardinell-Vincent Co. San Francisco, CA. #1932 "Modern Civilization" #1933 "South Sea" # 1935 "Atlantic Ocean" #1936 "North Sea" Unused. Sold on ebay for \$11.00

**Lot #77** Four postcard set of allegorical statues Representing the "Nations of the East" (#1939)and "Nations of the West" (#1938)published by Cardinell-Vincent Co. San Francisco, CA. Both a color and black&white version of each card. Unused. Sold at live auction for \$15

**Lot #78** Very thin foil medalet. Perhaps gilt brass. Was likely intended to be stuck to something. Live bid is \$10, ebay not complete at press time.

**Lot #79** Postcard "Tower of Jewels", Published by the Bardell Art Ptg. Co., San Francisco. Unused. Sold at live auction for \$12.

**Lot #80** Postcard "Arch of the Rising Sun, Court of the Universe", Published by the Bardell Art Ptg. Co., San Francisco. Unused. Sold at live auction for \$5.



## **1040<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society**

**8:00PM Wednesday, November 27, 2002**

Knights of Columbus Hall, 2800 Taraval St. at 38<sup>th</sup> Ave. San Francisco

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**Joel Anderson**

**John Law and the Mississippi Bubble**

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**Pacific Coast Numismatic Society  
Box 194271 San Francisco, CA 94119-4271  
Bulletin Editor: Michael Wehner**

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Please join us at our next meeting to hear *Joel Anderson* (spouse of member *Lila*) tell us about “John Law and the Mississippi Bubble”

### 1039<sup>th</sup> Meeting October 23, 2002 “Video Game Tokens”

*Michael Wehner* (reviewed by *Herb Miles*)

Our program for the night was the presentation of a fine computer slide program on Video Game Tokens by President Michael Wehner. Michael noted that the title is Video Game Tokens as opposed to Video Arcade Tokens (to distinguish the arcade games from the peep show tokens used in pornographic establishments).

Michael stated that such games began in the 1960s such as Star Trek, a game invented by computer programmers with time on their hands. This was a crude game with letters representing the Enterprise (E), Klingons (K), and Romulans (R). Naturally the E was to shoot down the Ks and Rs.

Nolan Bushnell brought out Pong in the early to mid 70s and this game became so popular and sold so many that he became a millionaire almost overnight. This game and many others of the time led to the proliferation of the video arcade, where teenagers would gather spending huge amounts of quarters on the colorful games coming after Pong. Bushnell continued to invent games but was thereafter overtaken by the large conglomerates and soon was no longer a major player in this market.

The golden age of Video Arcades occurred between 1979-1984 as one can attest from the following still well known arcade games; Space Invaders, Pac Man, Asteroids, Mario Brothers, and Donkey Kong. The decline of the video arcade coincided with the invention of games made for home consoles, role playing games and other imagination oriented games. Mom & Pop run arcades faded away and even large video arcades declined in popularity. Large chain arcades still exist but are situated mostly in theme parks and areas where are significant numbers of tourists.

In the beginning, quarters were the norm for playing the arcade games, but for money control, fraud and theft avoidance, and security, tokens began to be produced for the arcades. An added benefit of tokens was the advertising engraved on the almost quarter-size pieces.

These small pieces are collected avidly now in several ways; by state, topic, chain (Chuck E. Cheese), town or city, or even sometimes by the characters portrayed (Bullwinkle, Looney Tunes' characters). The Chuck E. Cheese tokens are quite popular and surprisingly enough, the restaurant chain was started by none other

“CHUCK E. CHEESE / IN PIZZA WE TRUST”. The other side says in French, “CHUCK E. CHEESE / A LA GRACE DE LA PIZZA”. The token measures 25mm, and weighs 5.0 grams. It is made of nickel-bonded steel. The planchet is magnetic. There are no mintmarks, although the figure carries a © symbol. The edge is plain.

I didn't think to ask the salesman if his trip was successful, but there are no British Columbia pizza tokens which match the above description. The token does resemble two other Canadian issues. An Edmonton issue, designated A-EDM-ch1c in Smith & Alpert's system, differs in that it is struck on a white metal (not necessarily a nickel-bonded steel) planchet, giving it a weight of 5.5 grams. The edge is milled, not plain. Another issue from Ontario is designated O-BUR-ch1aa. This piece is also said to be struck on a white metal planchet, but the weight of this issue is 5.0 grams. This piece too has a milled edge. Both tokens were issued and used in Canada in the early 1990s.

Whether or not this sample piece was the inspiration for other tokens, it is instructive to examine the token for its own qualities. A salesman's sample has to resemble the final product closely enough so a prospective client can see what he or she is getting. At the same time, the sample has to be distinguishable from circulating tokens. This piece would look much like its business-strike cousins, but the composition of the planchet and the milled edge are the keys to its unique status.



English side                      French side  
Salesman's sample Chuck E. Cheese token.

*Gordon Donnell* brought his latest St Louis World's Fair items, an ashtray and a salt cellar.

*Frank Strazzarino* exhibited a very well-preserved Book Bank from the First National Bank of Arizona, one he acquired at a local flea market after removing the monetary contents for the previous owner.

*Michael Wehner* brought his latest San Francisco prize, a large golden pot metal Golden Gate Bridge Opening medal.

### **Raffle**

A Golden Gate International Exposition grouping including a Union Pacific Railroad Brochure, a Used Ticket, a Postcard of Treasure Island, a Paper Logo Button by Sidney Kessler of San Francisco & a 1936 Newspaper showing the opening of the Bay Bridge, all won by *Jack Free*.

A Brass Ribbon holder (missing the ribbon) showing the skyline of San Francisco, the Bay Bridge, the Golden Gate Bridge, and ships on the bay, with a paper tag showing the name Mss A. Bohner, won by *Jerry Schimmel*.

Three California Street Cable Railroad Tickets from December 13, 1942, taken home by *Gordon Donnell*.

A 50 cent 1881 Raffle Ticket giving away a Silver Water Pitcher donated by Captain R. Cleary to benefit a deceased member of the "Emmet Guard", raffle to take place at M. Leahy's Saloon at 612 Howard Street, San Francisco, Calif on Thanksgiving Night, November 24, 1881.

A Salesman's sample of a Chuck E. Cheese Pizza token made of nickel-bonded steel, won happily by *Elliot and Michael Wehner* (thanks to Phil Nordin for donating this item!)

An Auction Catalog of French Coins, Tokens, and Medals from Hess-Divo, won by *Herb Miles*.

### **A Canadian Video Arcade Token Salesman's Sample *Phil Nordin***

A salesman's sample is analogous to a pattern piece in that it is not designed to circulate, and because of its generic nature it may differ from its business-strike progeny. In 1989, I was given such an item from a salesman I met in the Vancouver airport while waiting for a flight home. An examination of the token reveals a few similarities and a few differences between it and the circulating video arcade tokens of the time.

than Nolan Bushnell, the inventor of Pong! He wanted a place where small children could visit, play video games, and "be a kid." Chuck E. Cheese tokens are collected by location, date (many are dated), by the various rat heads, i.e., old, young, baby, and by metal varieties.

Michael enjoys video game tokens because they are still plentiful. Young people, especially, can still search and find many different varieties. They are inexpensive and are still being made, so a collection can never be complete.

### **Important Notice**

Due the conflict with Christmas Day, the December meeting will be held on Thursday, December 19, 2002 at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Please join us, together with the San Francisco Coin Club for a potluck holiday party.

### **Exhibits**

*Mark Wm Clark* brought us up to speed on the "recently discovered" first coin of the New World, a Mexican dollar being sold by Superior in Los Angeles; it appears to be a pattern and there may be other better examples coming to market soon!

*Jack Free* passed around his Origami folded dollar, an auction catalog picturing material from one of his friends, and a Cable Car booklet from the celebration in 1984.

*Jerry Schimmel* states that Gordon is not the only one who collects wooden nickels; and exhibited a grouping of local San Francisco woods from various bars and other places around the city.

*Phil Nordin* described the salesman's sample Chuck E. Cheese nickel-bonded token from Canada, one of which he donated to the Raffle.

*Cal Rogers* brought three items to share; a medal commemorating Admiral Byrd's third Antarctic expedition, and two coins featuring aircraft, a Super DC 8 and a Gulfstream Jet.

*Ron Johnson* brought a grouping of Video tokens, and told of his adventures in acquiring them.

*Steve Huston* brought his recent acquisition of a so-called Slug, i.e., a "replica" of the \$50 slug from early California days; of course the Park Service that sold this piece could not be wrong, could they?

*Ken Takahashi* brought a number of "odds & ends"; an Emperor Norton note from a SF Chronicle promotion, a cancelled bond from the Golden Gate Bridge District, a cancelled bond from the Hetch Hetchy Water District, and a United Convertible bond.